	Case 5:12 ev 01837 TJH-OP Document	1 Filed 10/23/12 P age 1 of 14 Page ID #		
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Robert F. Brennan, Esq. [S.B. #132449] LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT F. BRE 3150 Montrose Ave. La Crescenta, Ca. 91214 [818] 249-5291 FAX [818] 249-4329 Email: rbrennan@brennanlaw.com Attorney for Plaintiff Fred J. Peters	NNAN, A P.C. 2012 OCT 23 PM 2: 14 CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF. LOS ANGELES BY		
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
10	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
11 12	FRED J. PETERS, an Individual;	Case No.: ENCV12-1837- TJH (04)		
13	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:		
14	vs.			
15 16	EQUIFAX INFORMATION SERVICES LLC, is a Corporation; EXPERIAN INFORMATION) 1. FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT. 2. CALIFORNIA IDENTITY THEFT LAW.		
17	SOLUTIONS INC, a corporation; DISCOVER BANK, is a business	3. ROSENTHAL DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT.		
18	entity; form unknown; SST/CIGPF1CORP, an unknown business entity and DOES 1-10,) 4. CALIFORNIA CONSUMER) CREDTI REPORTING AGENCIES) ACT		
19	Inclusive,			
20	Defendants.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED.		
21 22				
23	Plaintiff alleges:			
24	1. Plaintiff FRED J. PETERS ("Plaintiff") is a resident of County of			
25	Riverside, State of California.			
26	2. Defendants EQUIFAX INFORM			
27	("EQUIFAX"), EXPERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS INC. ("EXPERIAN")			

are business entities, forms unknown, doing business in the State of California as

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- credit bureaus which receive negative credit information about consumers and which then publish such information in credit reports available to its subscribers. Collectively, these defendants will be referred to as "credit bureau defendants" or "credit agency defendants. DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES ("DISCOVER") is a creditor which, among other activities, reports allegedly delinquent debts to credit bureaus and is a "furnisher" under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- 3. Defendants SST/CIGPF1CORP ("SST") is a collection agency which, among other activities, reports allegedly delinquent debts to credit bureaus and is a "furnisher" under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- 4. Defendants DOES 1-10 are individuals and business entities, form unknown, doing business in the State of California as credit reporting agencies, debt collection agencies, creditors or other persons or entities which engage in credit reporting and/or debt collection. DOES 1-10, Inclusive, includes individuals or business entities doing business in the State of California as credit reporting agencies, debt collectors and/or creditors who have refused to delete accounts of plaintiff that were procured through identity theft, mixed file or other manner of recording an inaccurate credit account, even after plaintiff has notified them of the false or inaccurate derogatory, and also who have reported such accounts as derogatory credit references to credit reporting agencies.
- 5. Plaintiff does not know the true names and capacities, whether corporate, partnership, associate, individual or otherwise of Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, under the provisions of Section 474 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that Defendants Does 1 through 10, inclusive, are in some manner responsible for the acts, occurrences and transactions as officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants or as its agents, servants, employees and/or joint

venturers and as set forth in this complaint, and that each of them are legally liable to Plaintiff, as set forth below and herein:

- a) Said Officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally acted willfully with respect to the matters alleged in this complaint;
- b) Said officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally authorized, approved of, adopted and/or ratified the acts alleged herein or the agents, servants, employees and/or joint venturers of Defendants did so act;
- c) Said officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally participated in the acts alleged herein of Defendants;
- d) Said Officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally had close supervision of their agents, servants, employees and/or joint venturers of Defendants;
- e) Said Officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally were familiar with the facts regarding the matters alleged herein;
- f) Said Officers, directors or managing agents of Defendants personally failed to investigate the circumstances appertaining to the acts alleged herein. They also failed and refused to repudiate the herein alleged actions and failed to redress the harm done to Plaintiffs. Further, said Officers, directors, or managing agents of Defendants failed and refused to punish or discharge the said agents, servants, employees and/or joint venturers of Defendants, even after learning of the acts of the agents, servants, employees and/or joint venturers of Defendants. Plaintiffs will seek leave to amend this complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of said fictitiously named Defendants as enumerated above, together with appropriate charging allegations, when learned.
- 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times herein each Defendant, whether actually or fictitiously named, was the principal, joint venturer, agent, servant or employee of each other Defendant, and

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in acting as such within the course, scope and authority of such relationship, took some part in the acts and omissions hereinafter set forth, by reason of which each Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for the relief prayed for in this complaint, and any future amended complaint. Further, Plaintiff alleges that each act alleged herein, whether by a named Defendants or fictitiously named Defendants or otherwise, was expressly authorized or ratified, as these terms are used in California Civil Code Section 3294(b), by each and every other Defendant herein, whether named or fictitiously named.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

[VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS]

- 7. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates all preceding paragraphs as though set forth in full in this cause of action.
- 8. Plaintiff is a consumer as this term is defined by 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1681a(c) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act. All defendants are "furnishers" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1681s-2 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, except, EQUIFAX and EXPERIAN and each of the credit bureau defendants who are "consumer reporting agencies" as that term is defined in 15 U.S.C. Section 1681a (f).
- 9. Plaintiff is a 72 year old man who has owned and operated East West Truck and Repair since 1993 in Nuevo California. Due to fraud and identity theft Plaintiff lost the goodwill he had built up over the past 32 years with his vendors and creditors. Many of his vendors and creditors will now only work with him on a cash basis. Plaintiff lost a great deal of business; he had to lay off employees and has turned down for loans.
- 10. On or about November 27, 2010, Plaintiff discovered that he was a victim of identity theft. On December 1, 2010, Plaintiff filed a police report.

- 11. On or about August 29, 2011, Rebecca Markham, Plaintiff's Secretary, was found guilty of fraud and of unauthorized use of Plaintiff's identity. Rebecca Markham was sentenced to three years in state prison by the Honorable Judge Kelly L. Hansen in Riverside Superior Court.
- 12. Plaintiff called and sent dispute letters to Transunion, EXPERIAN and EQUIFAX disputing several accounts that did not belong to him and requested that they be investigated and removed.
- 13. On or about June 15, 2012 Plaintiff sent dispute letters to EQUIFAX, Transunion and EXPERIAN providing copies of his police report. Also, Plaintiff attached a copy of the Minute Order from Riverside Superior Court regarding Rebecca Markham, who was found guilty of identity theft to aid them in their investigation.
- 14. On August 7, 2012, Plaintiff received a credit report from EQUIFAX stating that the DISCOVER and SST accounts were valid therefore would remain under the collection activity section.
- 15. On October 4, 2012, Plaintiff received a credit report from EXPERIAN that was still reporting the DISCOVER account.
- 16. Defendants EQUIFAX, EXPERIAN, DISCOVER and SST have refused, despite Plaintiff's phone calls and letters to acknowledge that he was not responsible for the DISCOVER and SST accounts.
- 17. Plaintiff sent correspondence to EQUIFAX, EXPERIAN, DISCOVER and SST asking that they reinvestigate his account, cease any negative credit reporting and remove his account from collection activity. Only non-party Transunion complied with plaintiff's request to cease the derogatory credit reporting.
- 18. Plaintiff complied with all requests of each of the Defendants to provide information in order to have the erroneous marks removed from his credit

reports. Despite the insistence of Plaintiff, the Defendants, and each of them, failed to correct the errors and failed to undertake sufficient investigations upon being notified of the errors. On information and belief, EQUIFAX and EXPERIAN received multiple disputes from Plaintiff and forwarded at least some of the information to DISOCVER and SST thereby triggering a duty of reinvestigation by DISCOVER and SST. (In making this allegation, plaintiff is expressly not admitting that either credit bureau forwarded all relevant information, and is expressly not admitting that the credit bureaus' own investigations were reasonable. Plaintiff alleges the contrary.)

- 19. Within the past several years, Defendants, and each of them, willfully violated the provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act in *at least* the following respects:
- a. By willfully and negligently failing, in the preparation of the consumer report concerning Plaintiff, to follow reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy of the information in the report;
- b. By willfully and negligently failing to correct, after receiving ample notice, information about the Plaintiff which defendants knew, or should have known, was incomplete and/or inaccurate;
- c. By willfully and negligently failing to correct and/or delete the incomplete and inaccurate information in Plaintiff's file after conducting an investigation;
- d. By willfully and negligently failing to conduct an adequate investigation of Plaintiff's complaints, and by willfully and negligently failing to implement corrective actions once the outcome of such investigations were known, or should have been known, to the defendants;
- e. By willfully and negligently failing to provide subsequent users of the report with the Plaintiff's statement of dispute or a summary thereof;

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- f. By willfully and negligently changing account numbers and account number designations so as to make reinvestigation and deletion more difficult for the consumer, but in turn more lucrative for bureaus and furnishers because derogatory account information will remain on credit reports longer;
- g. By willfully and negligently failing to provide notice to Plaintiff of the furnishing of negative credit information to credit reporting agencies, and,
- h. By willfully and negligently failing to provide such information to the credit bureaus indicating the full nature, reasons and extent of Plaintiff's dispute, and thus causing the credit report to the credit bureaus to be inaccurate and incomplete.
- 20. As a proximate result of the actions of the Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount which will be proven at time of trial. As provided under the cited law, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, pain and suffering, punitive damages, penalties, costs and attorney fees.
- 21. Plaintiff alleges that defendants, and each of them, have willfully violated FCRA with respect to Plaintiff and towards others similarly situated. Specifically, defendants deliberately have inefficient procedures for correcting their credit files, because they know that a certain number of consumers will either be intimidated or too frustrated to continuously fight back against the constant onslaught of collection activities for invalid debts. Defendants, and each of them, know that a certain number of consumers would rather pay than fight, even if the debt is not actually owed. These defendants know that their systems intimidate consumers so they'll pay debts even if not valid or not completely valid. These facts were not disclosed to the Plaintiff and are not disclosed to the borrowing public at large.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA IDENTITY THEFT LAW, CIV. CODE SECTION 1798.92 et seq., AGAINST DISCOVER, SST AND DOES 1-10, INCLUSIVE.

- 22. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as though alleged in full in this cause of action.
- 23. In continuing credit reporting and debt collection activities against plaintiff after she had reported to them the identity theft situation and after providing them with a police report, DISCOVER, SST and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, willfully violated the California Identity Theft Law, Civ. Code Section 1798.92 et seq.
- 24. Plaintiff has suffered actual damages, including general, special, incidental and consequential damages, and is also entitled to attorney's fees and costs under the California Identity Theft Law. In addition, plaintiff alleges that defendants DISCOVER, SST and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, specifically violated Civ. Code Section 1798.93 (c) (6), thereby entitling him to a \$30,000.00 penalty, in addition to any other damages which may be assessed.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA ROSENTHAL ACT AGAINST DISCOVER, SST AND DOES 1-10, INCLUSIVE.

- 25. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as though alleged in full in this cause of action.
- 26. In continuing debt collection and credit-reporting activities after the point where plaintiff notified defendants of the identity theft situation, and after she provided them with a police report of the identity theft, defendants DISCOVER, SST and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, willfully and knowingly violated the

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California Rosenthal Act, and specifically violated Civ. Code Section 1788.18.

27. Plaintiff has suffered actual damages, including general, special, incidental and consequential damages, and is also entitled to attorney's fees and costs under the Rosenthal Act. In addition, plaintiff alleges that defendants DISCOVER, SST and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, specifically violated Civ. Code Section 1788.18, thereby entitling him to a statutory penalty, in addition to any other damages which may be assessed.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION [VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CONSUMER CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES ACT

AGAINST DISCOVER, SST AND DOES 1-10, INCLUSIVE.]

- 28. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as though alleged in full in this cause of action.
- 29. In committing the false credit reporting and in continuing to falsely credit-report plaintiff after notice from him and from the credit bureaus, defendants DISCOVER, SST and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, have violated Cal. Civ. Code Section 1785.25 (a).
- 30. As a consequence of these violations, plaintiff has suffered both general and special damages according to proof.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. For general and special damages according to proof at trial;
- 2. For statutory penalties for each separate statutory violation where allowed by statute;
- 3. For punitive damages against defendants according to proof at trial and

using the applicable punitive damages standards from the involved statutes;

- 4. For attorney's fees where authorized by statute or law;
- 5. For costs of suit;
- 6. For such other relief as the court deems just and proper.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A JURY TRIAL.

Dated: October 2012 LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT F. BRENNAN, A P.C.

Robert F. Brennan Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Terry J. Hatter and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Oswald Parada.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

EDCV12- 1837 TJH (OPx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central

	nstrict of California, the Ma notions.	gistra	ite Judge has been designated to he	ear discovery related
Α	ll discovery related motions	shou	ald be noticed on the calendar of the	e Magistrate Judge
=		===	=======================================	=========
			NOTICE TO COUNSEL	
	py of this notice must be served w a copy of this notice must be ser		e summons and complaint on all defenda n all plaintiffs).	nts (if a removal action is
Sub	sequent documents must be filed	at the	following location:	
L	Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012	ᆸ	Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053 Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516	Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134 Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Case 5:12-cv-01837-TJH-OP Document 3	1 Filed 10/23/12 Page 12 of 14. Page ID #:20
Robert F. Brenhan SBN 132449 LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT F. BRENNAN AP.C. 3150 Montrose Ave. La Crescenta CA 91214 Tel: 818-249-5291 Fax: 818-249-4329	
	DISTRICT COURT CT OF CALIFORNIA
FRED J. PETERS, an Individual;	CASE NUMBER
PLAINTIFF(S) V. IFAX INFORMATION SERVICES LLC, is a Corporation; ERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS INC, a corporation; COVER BANK, is a business entity; form unknown; CIGPFICORP, an unknown business entity and DOES 1-10, Inclusive, DEFENDANT(S).	EDCV12-1837-7JH (DPx) SUMMONS
must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached of counterclaim cross-claim or a motion under Rule 1 or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Ro 3150 Montrose Ave. La Crescenta CA 91214 judgment by default will be entered against you for the r	2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer bert F. Brennan , whose address i If you fail to do so
your answer or motion with the court. OCT 2 3 2012 Dated:	Clerk, U.S. District Court By: Deputy Clerk (Seal of the Court)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA . CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check be FRED J. PETERS, an	ox if you are representing yourself l Individual;	□)	EXPERIAN INFORM.	TION SERVICES LLC ATION SOLUTIONS II a business entity; form	NC, a corporation;
(b) County of Residence of Fir Riverside County	st Listed Plaintiff (Except in U.S.	Plaintiff Cases):	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (In U.S. Plaintiff Cases Only): Los Angeles, California		
yourself, provide same.) Robert F: Brennan, Es LAW OFFICES OF R 3150 Montrose Ave.	ddress and Telephone Number: If 3 q. SBN 132449 OBERT F. BRENNAN AP.C. 14 Telephone 818-249-5291	ou are representing	Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPA (Place an X in one box for plain					s Only
U.S Government Plaintiff	S Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)) Citizen of This		DEF I Incorporated or of Business in the	
2 U.S. Government Defendar	of Parties in Item III)	enship Citizen of Ano	ther State 🔲 2	2 Incorporated and of Business in A	i Principal Place
		Citizen or Subj	ect of a Foreign Country 🛚 3	☐ 3 Foreign Nation	□6 □6
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.) IV Original					
V. REQUESTED IN COMPL	AINT: JURY DEMAND: 📢 Y	es 🗆 No (Check 'Ye	s' only if demanded in compla	int.)	
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C	C.P. 23: □ Yes 🗗 No	哎	MONEY DEMANDED IN C	OMPLAINT: \$_300,000	<u> </u>
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.) Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1681					
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place	ce an X in one box only.)		, ·		
□ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities /Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Act □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Info. Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	□ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of ○ Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Exel. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJUR 310 Airplane 315 Airplane 315 Airplane 320 Assault; Libel Slander 330 Fed. Employer Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle 1355 Motor Vehicle 1365 Personal Injury 1362 Personal Injury 1363 Personal Injury 1364 Personal Injury 1365 Personal Injury 1365 Personal Injury 1366 Personal Injury 1367 Personal Injury 1368 1368 Asbestos Personal Injury 1368 1368 Personal Injury 1368	PROPERTY 370 Other Praud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Property Damage Property Damage Property Damage Product Liability Appeal 28 USC 158	□ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty □ 540 Mandamus/ Other □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition FORFEITURE/ □ 610 Agriculture □ 620 Other Food & Drug □ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 630 Liquor Laws □ 640 R.R. & Truck □ 650 Airline Regs □ 660 Occupational Safety /Health □ 690 Other	Table Tabor Standards Act
VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed and dismissed, remanded or closed? WNo C Yes					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: (Case Numb					
CV-71 (07/05) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 1 of 2					

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed that are related to the present case? VIII Description						
If yes, list case number(s):						
(Check all boxes that apply)	vil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case: heck all boxes that apply) A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.					
IX. VENUE: List the Californi ☐ Check here if the U.S. gover Riverside, California	a County, or State it of nment, its agencies or e	ner than California, in which EACH named plaintiff resides (Use an additional sheet if necessary) imployees is a named plaintiff.				
List the California County, or S Check here if the U.S. gove EXPERIAN - Ohio EQUIFAX - GEORGIA DISCOVER - Delaware SST/CIGPFICORP - Mi	mment, its agencies or o	mia, in which EACH named defendant resides. (Use an additional sheet if necessary). employees is a named defendant.				
List the California County, or Note: In land condemnation eas Los Angeles County	State if other than Cali less, use the location of the	fornia, in which EACH claim grose. (Use an additional sheet if necessary) the tract of land involved.				
or outer papers as required	The CV-71 (JS-44) C	Evil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings roved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not urpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions				
Key to Statistical codes relating	to Social Security Cases					
Nature of Suit Co		Substantive Statement of Cause of Action				
198	HIĄ	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))				
862	.BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)				
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))				
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))				
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.				
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))				

CV-71 (07/05)